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DAILY

Kabul 04° snow showers | Kandahar 16° Cloudy | Herat 08° Partly cloudy | Jalalabad 14° Cloudy | Mazar-e-Sharif 07° Cloudy | Bamyan -4° Partly cloudy

NPC approves 27 projects worth 3 bln Afghani

KABUL: The meeting of the National Procurement Commission (NPC) was held with the Islamic Emirate Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, on the chair, approving 27 development projects worth 3 billion Afghani, his office said in a statement on Tuesday.

The meeting discussed 37 projects of which 27 projects were approved, 7 were amended, one was canceled and two projects were postponed due to existing procurement-related issues, the statement said, instructing the relevant officials to re-submit these projects to a competitive bidding process, ensuring full adherence to procurement regulations.

According to the statement, committees were assigned to review the procurement processes of the two postponed projects, taking into account the amendments made by the National Pro-

curement Commission, and to submit their reports to the commission's leadership.

The approved and amended projects include the construction of a transport terminal in the eastern part of Kabul City, completion of remaining works at Jumburiat Hospital in Kabul, completion of remaining works at Pashdan Dam in Herat and Bakhshabad Dam in Farah, completion of the protection and maintenance project of Sultan Dam in Ghazni province, the statement said.

Initiation of the detailed design project for Sultan Ibrahim Dam in Sar-e Pul province, completion of the power transmission project from Kabul to Kandahar, including the installation of electricity poles, construction of substations, and extension of transmission lines, extension of power transmission lines from Kajaki Dam to Kandahar City, completion of remaining works in existing electricity projects in several



other provinces, and the construction of several roads in Kabul City were also among the approved projects, the statement concluded. It should be said that the approved projects will be funded by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

The previous meeting of the commission also had approved 17 development projects worth 3 billion Afghani, which included the construction of the Arghandi

Transport Terminal in Kabul, the establishment of parking areas for freight vehicles in Guzara district of Herat, the repair of the Aquina-Andkhy and Turgundi railway projects, the extension of fiber optic networks in Kandahar, Helmand, and Farah provinces, as well as the reconstruction of several roads in Kabul city, and the completion of remaining works in electricity projects across various provinces. **The Kabul Times**

Minister Khairkhwa, Japanese ambassador, discuss cultural relations

KABUL: Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwa, the acting Minister of Information and Culture, met with Takayoshi Kuromiya, the Japanese Ambassador to Kabul, stressing expanding bilateral cultural relations, the ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

Mullah Khairkhwa said that Afghanistan and Japan have had positive relations throughout history in various fields and have also been based on honesty and trust.

He called on Japan's comprehensive cooperation in preserving cultural heritage.

Meanwhile, the Japanese ambassador shared information regarding his country's projects and development plans in Afghanistan, as well



as about \$6 million in aid for vulnerable people, which was signed two days ago with the UNHCR (United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees) to support internally displaced persons and returnees in the country. **The Kabul Times**

Innovative Youth Art Exhibition held in Kabul, ministry



KABUL: The Ministry of Information and Culture said Tuesday in a statement that the Innovative Youth Art Exhibition was held in Kabul, displaying 200 artworks.

The exhibition was organized by the ministry's Art De-

partment in cooperation with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Sataragan, and Mashal Academy, the statement said.

According to the statement, the exhibition was at-

tended by Mawlawi Atiqullah Azizi, the Art and Culture Deputy Minister of Information and Culture, UNAMA Chief of Human Rights Fiona Frazer, Brendan Cassar, Head of the United Nations Cultural Organization (UNESCO), writers, artists, and art lovers.

Mawlawi Azizi said that the arts are not only an expression of individual creativity; they also play a vital role in preserving and promoting social and cultural values.

"Exhibitions have also become a means of expanding communication between people, acquiring new knowledge, and increasing understanding of different cultures," Azizi said, emphasizing that people can express their feelings.

Miniature and calligraphy are also two permanent and

proud arts of Afghanistan, whose creator and inventor is Allama Kamaluddin Behzad, he said, urging the international organizations, especially UNESCO to not attribute these arts to other countries and recognize them as the property of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the UNAMA Chief of Human Rights Fiona Frazer said: "We are pleased that work is still being done for the arts in Afghanistan and we applaud the efforts of the Ministry of Information and Culture in this regard." UNAMA is committed to preserving and advancing Afghanistan's culture, art and historical heritage and has always supported Afghan artists in this regard, Fiona said, assuring necessary cooperation in this regard. **The Kabul Times**

UNHCR, JICA support IDPs, returnees

KABUL: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the other day in a statement that it has signed a \$6 million cooperation agreement with Japan to support the livelihoods and self-sufficiency of displaced Afghan citizens and returnees in Afghanistan.

Arafat Jamal, UNHCR's representative, said that with the support of new action with JICA, more than 15,000 Afghans will benefit from activities designed to boost their self-reliance and prosperity for displaced, returned, and host communities alike.



Jamal also highlighted that more than two million Afghans returned to Afghanistan in 2024, emphasizing that manag-

ing this process will have a critical impact on the country's situation.

During the signing ceremony,

ny, Japan's ambassador to Afghanistan, Takayoshi Kuromiya, reaffirmed his country's commitment to supporting the Afghan people.

He stated: "The Government of Japan is committed to continue to support Afghanistan, particularly through projects in agriculture and community-based infrastructure that are inclusive, sustainable and provide opportunities for women." According to UNHCR reports, Japan has contributed nearly \$30 million to UNHCR operations in Afghanistan since 2021.

The Kabul Times

School inaugurated for underprivileged, orphaned children in Herat



HERAT: A Charity Foundation has inaugurated a new elementary school aimed at providing educational opportunities for underprivileged and

orphaned children in Herat.

The school, which has the capacity to accommodate 500 students, serves boys and girls in grades one through six,

the provincial Chamber of Commerce and Investment said in a statement Tuesday.

According to the statement, Faiz Ahmad Khawfi, head of the Khawfi Brothers Trading Company, announced a significant investment of \$1 million for the expansion and development of the school.

In addition to primary education, the school plans to introduce vocational classes, enabling students to acquire practical and professional skills alongside their general education. Meanwhile, Mo-

hammad Younus Mohmand, the first deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment of Herat, praised the Khawfi Foundation's efforts, highlighting the importance of improving education levels as a cornerstone for the progress and development of Afghanistan.

The officials of the charity foundation said that in the future, they plan to provide free education for four thousand working and orphaned children in this school. **The Kabul Times**

Tens of tourists visit country's historical sites, NSIA

KABUL: The National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said Tuesday that 200 foreign tourists have visited the country's historical sites and natural attractions in the past month of the outgoing solar year.

The authority also reported the entry and exit of more than 2,400 foreign nationals to the country over the past month.

"Our figures show that in the month of Dalwa of the current solar year, 2,465 entries and exits of foreign nationals to the coun-

try have been recorded.

The registered figures indicate that foreigners have come to Afghanistan to visit historical sites and for work," said Mohammad Halim Rafi, the spokesperson for the NSIA.

Tourism, as one of the world's largest industries, is a primary source of income for many countries, therefore, the issuance of visas and travel procedures should be facilitated, and in addition, security must be well ensured so that they can visit vari-

ous places with peace of mind.

The Ministry of Information and Culture has announced that since the beginning of the current solar year, around 7,700 foreign tourists have visited the country's historical sites.

These tourists have mostly traveled to the provinces of Bamyan, Kandahar, Ghazni, Balkh, and Nuristan, indicating foreigners' interest in Afghanistan's historical and cultural attractions.

The Kabul Times



Flash floods claim 21 lives, injure scores in Farah

FARAH: At least 21 individuals have been martyred, dozens of others injured, and tens of houses destroyed due to devastating floods in the country's western province of Farah, the provincial Disaster Management Authority said in a statement Tuesday.

Mawlawi Mohammad Israil Sayar, head of the provincial disaster management, said that due

to heavy rains and flash floods, 21 individuals, including women and children, have been martyred and dozens of others injured in the Qala-e-Kah district of the province. Tens of residential houses and scores of acres of land have also been destroyed, he said.

Afghanistan is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change

and is one of the least equipped to deal with the consequences.

Thousands of people across the country are now affected by climate-induced natural disasters every year. It is time that necessary steps be taken to address it and find ways to at least decrease the disasters caused by climate change in the country.

The Kabul Times

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Food for thought*Today's generation guarantees our bright future***More tourists visiting Afghanistan amid sure security**

Afghanistan is now enjoying sure security after long years of war and conflict.

Everywhere in the country, one can feel peace and comfort, and anyone; either locals or foreigners, can travel and visit historical and ancient sites of the country.

A report from the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said that nearly 200 foreign tourists have visited Afghanistan's historical sites in the past one month.

The authority also reported the entry and exit of more than 2,400 foreign nationals to the country over the past month.

Figures from the authority showed that in the month of Dalwa of the current solar year, 2,465 entries and exits of foreign tourists to the country have been recorded.

The foreigners, according to the administration data, have come to Afghanistan to visit historical sites and work here in the country, after countrywide security was ensured following the return of the Islamic Emirate to power nearly four years ago.

Foreign tourists visiting Afghanistan are mostly traveling to the provinces of Bamyan, Kandahar, Ghazni, Balkh, and Nuristan, indicating foreigners' interest in Afghanistan's historical and cultural attractions.

Since tourism, as one of the world's largest industries, is a primary source of income for many countries, the related organs of the Islamic Emirate should do their best to provide them with the required facilities including visa issuance and travel procedures besides security.

Also, special security is needed for foreign tourists so that they can visit different historical areas of the country.

On the other hand, the protection and preservation of the country's tangible and intangible cultural heritage is crucial as foreign tourists are interested in particularly visiting ancient sites.

Since the beginning of the current solar year, around 7,700 foreign tourists have visited the country's historical sites, an achievement indicating sure security and stability of the country.

Role of media in shaping public opinion**Part VI**

Within media discourse, a frequently debated question is whether media should be monitored by the government. Many have addressed this issue, presenting diverse opinions.

Answering this question requires considering numerous details, as historical experience

monitoring the media is necessary to prevent the dissemination of false information, extremism, and social instability.

In such circumstances, striking a balance between media freedom and government oversight is both a sensitive and vital issue.

Government supervision of

The existence of certain structured mechanisms for oversight and the establishment of comprehensive laws can help direct the media toward its intended purpose.

These laws should align with Islamic values and Afghanistan's prevailing realities, ensuring that they safeguard

However, enforcing these laws has always faced challenges, as some media outlets, in the absence of effective oversight, have disseminated biased or incorrect information, sometimes exacerbating political and social instability.

To prevent disorder and to safeguard values, the first step is drafting such laws, and the next step is ensuring their implementation with effective enforcement mechanisms, including a system of rewards and penalties.

Government oversight of media content is a precise and continuous process, but it must have clear boundaries.

One of the biggest challenges in media regulation in Afghanistan is the lack of transparency and independence in regulatory bodies.

Some regulatory institutions, instead of acting impartially, have been influenced by political considerations and have used the media as a propaganda tool.

Additionally, weak infrastructure for fact-checking and the absence of clear standards for managing digital media are major problems in this area.

The government should define the scope of media oversight and strive to create an environment for accurate and honest information dissemination.

The media should remain independent in covering news, with government intervention occurring only when the media deviates from its course, publishes unreliable news, or disseminates content contrary to Islamic and cultural values. Government oversight should not lead to an information blackout.

In this regard, the government should consult with religious scholars, university professors, media experts, and government spokespersons to develop a comprehensive plan and implement it effectively.

The media can play either a positive or negative role in maintaining national security and strengthening social cohesion.

Broadcasting false reports, fueling ethnic and religious tensions, or disseminating extremist content can have dire consequences for the country's stability.

For this reason, the government must guide the media toward responsibility and adherence to professional principles through a transparent legal framework.

Otherwise, this powerful tool could become a potential threat, disrupting vital matters such as internal security, stability, public mental well-being, and public opinion.

A wise approach must be adopted to ensure that the media is not suppressed but reformed while also preventing its unregulated excesses and associated risks.

Additionally, the government can support and strengthen honest media outlets, creating an environment where substandard media entities face increased difficulties in operating.

In a competitive media landscape, responsible and purpose-driven media can outperform and overshadow aimless and content-deficient media outlets.

Firooz Ahmad Ebrahimi



es and administrative realities suggest that oversight, on the one hand, prevents chaos and disorder, and on the other hand, limits the influence of harmful external forces.

In Afghanistan, due to extensive political and social transformations, the role of the media has always faced serious challenges.

On one hand, freedom of speech and the free flow of information is essential for an informed society, while on the other hand, managing and

the media is an accepted practice in all countries, even in democratic systems.

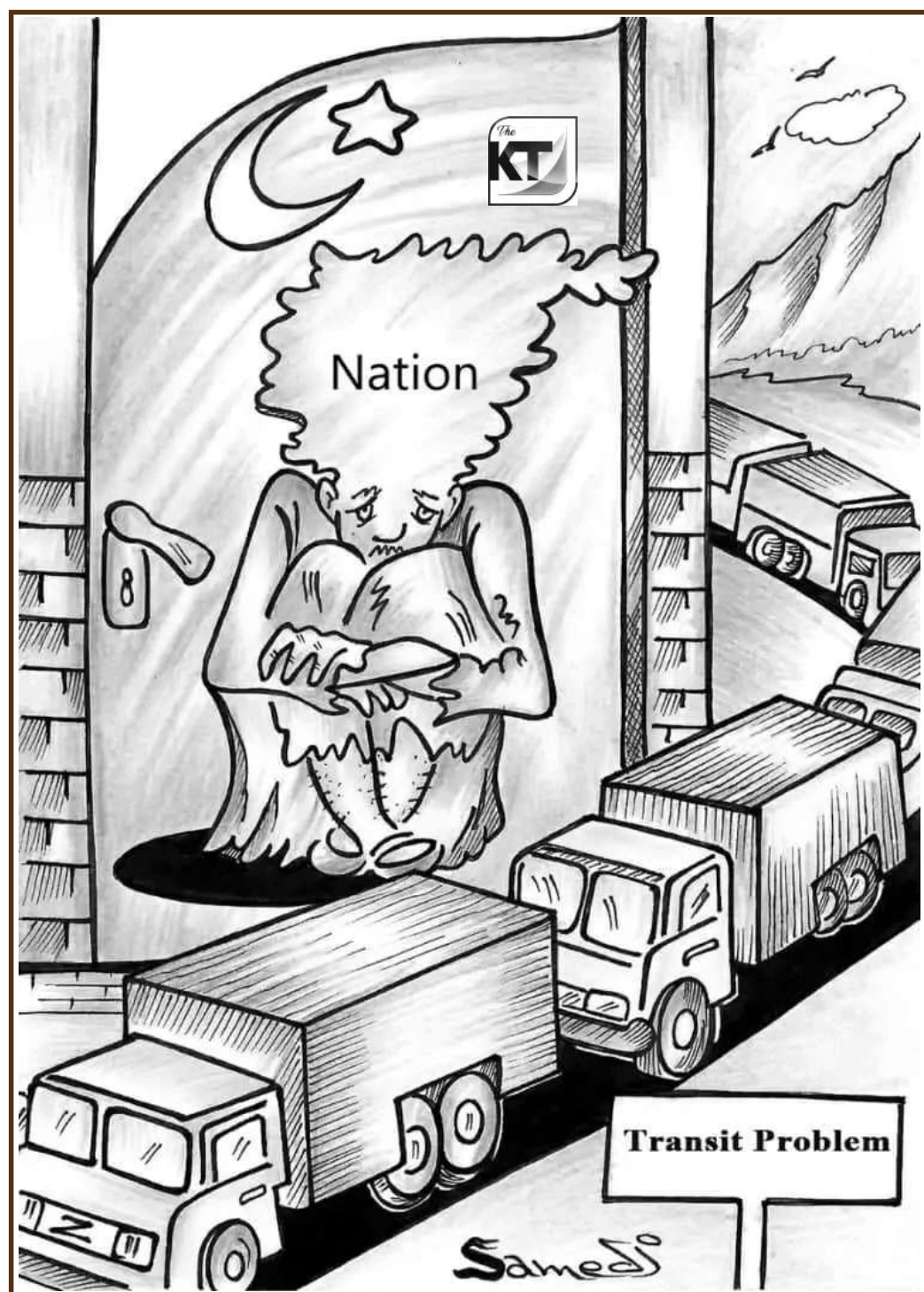
The primary goal of this oversight is to ensure national security, prevent the spread of misinformation, and uphold ethical and legal principles in media publications.

In Afghanistan, such oversight should be implemented in a way that does not restrict freedom of speech but instead guides the media toward accurate, professional, and responsible reporting.

the interests of both the government and the people while also supporting the media's fundamental role in accurate news dissemination, cultural development, and education in various media sectors.

Over the past two decades, Afghanistan has witnessed the enactment of several media-related laws.

The Mass Media Law, the Journalists' Code of Ethics, and other related regulations have outlined the legal framework for media activities.



Afghanistan's expanding relations with world countries

With each passing day, Afghanistan is getting more mature in its relations with all other countries in the world and region, and experiences sound and constructive political and economic relations.

In the past few decades, Afghanistan was not in a good position to maintain constructive and stronger political and economic relations with the world countries because the phenomenon of occupation, aggression and the shameful presence of foreign forces had damaged Afghanistan's credibility.

However, with the victory of the Islamic Emirate and the improvement of the overall security situation across the country, the credibility of this country was restored in every area and the country has regained the essence of its prestige in the world, as Afghanistan's relations with neighboring countries and the region are expanding at an unprecedented pace, and the new relations of Uzbekistan are one of the clearest examples of this process.

The current trade relations and cooperation between Afghanistan and Central Asian countries continue to be remarkable, which has put positive impacts on the region's economic growth. Afghanistan's

political and economic relations with almost all countries in Central Asia are expanding by passing each single day.

Among countries in the Central Asia, Uzbekistan is a country that had good and constructive relations even

one of the important and reputable countries in the world.

Afghanistan hopes that other countries will also be inspired by Uzbekistan and enter to the gate of good interaction with Afghanistan.

The Islamic Emirate has al-

to use the country's soil or disrupt the situation in Afghanistan or other countries in the world and region.

Therefore, it is also necessary for countries to observe mutual respect, maintain their good relations with Afghani-



during the first period of the Islamic Emirate.

The country has always shown ready and kept stronger relations with its all neighbors in the region, particularly Afghanistan.

The recent relations and trusts of countries in the region show that Afghanistan has emerged from isolation and has achieved the status of

ways assured all countries in the world and region that this country is committed to the security of countries and that no threat will be posed to any countries from Afghanistan side. Afghanistan has now become a country where there are no foreign individuals or proxy groups, and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan will never allow any individual or group

stan, and avoid any interference in our country.

The Islamic Emirate has always asked the world to enter to positive engagement with Afghanistan.

The Islamic Emirate is ready to work with them and want to maintain stronger political and economic relations with them.

Fida Mohammad

Responsibility of citizens in maintaining green, pollution-free environment

Moreover, numerous local and international institutions organize awareness seminars in the capital and provinces to educate citizens on their responsibilities in preserving a healthy and pollution-free environment.

With the arrival of spring each year, the Kabul Municipality launches a tree-planting campaign across the country, particularly in Kabul, to promote a greener environment.

In addition to this initiative, both local and international organizations conduct

such seminars to encourage citizens to actively participate in maintaining a green environment.

The Kabul Municipality and the National Environmental Protection Agency have also contributed by conducting educational programs through seminars and

ment, and what essential steps should they take?

Nematullah Barakzai, Cultural Affairs Advisor at the Kabul Municipality, emphasized the role of citizens in environmental conservation with the media.

He stated: "Citizens must take responsibility for pro-

Meanwhile, Abdul Ahad Khalil Karim, Director General of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said on Sunday at a ceremony in Badam Bagh area of Kabul that the ministry plans to plant 16 million saplings in the country for the next two years, which will cost 269 million Afghani.

"560 million Afghani have been collected in revenue from forests and forestry in the country over the past three years," he said.

Welcoming preparations taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock on sapling plantation, Kabul residents said that the ministry has always made efforts to greenery of the country, but the people particularly the Kabul residents should also take part in this regard.

Every citizen has a role to play in protecting the environment from pollution.

Ensuring a green and pollution-free environment requires collective action.

Citizens should take an active role in protecting trees, reducing pollution, and participating in environmental initiatives.

By working together, we can create a sustainable and healthier living space for future generations.

Abdul Rashid



similar campaigns to enhance environmental sustainability.

Moreover, numerous local and international institutions organize awareness seminars in the capital and provinces to educate citizens on their responsibilities in preserving a healthy and pollution-free environment.

This year, we witnessed several organizations hosting

engaging community representatives from various districts to spread environmental awareness.

These efforts highlight the importance of collective responsibility in fostering a sustainable and clean environment.

As spring approaches, the question arises: What are the responsibilities of citizens in ensuring a greener environ-

ment, and what essential steps should they take?

He further noted that while the Kabul Municipality plants hundreds of saplings across the country annually to encourage tree plantation, this year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has taken the lead in these efforts, with the Kabul Municipality continuing to support related initiatives.

Judicial and legal transparency; resolved cases reinvestigated

The judicial and legal institutions of a country are considered an essential part of ensuring people's rights and fostering trust in the existing systems.

In Afghanistan, decades of war severely affected these institutions, leading to a decline in public trust.

In the past, judicial and legal bodies were often accused of corruption.

There were allegations that court decisions were influenced by connections, money, and family ties, resulting in unfair rulings.

However, over the past

People approach us with confidence, seeking justice for their cases."

At the same time, while many citizens appreciate the justice being served, some complain about long waiting times due to the overwhelming number of cases.

Mir Hamza, a resident of Kandahar, traveled to the city court of Uruzgan for a legal case.

Speaking to The Kabul Times, he said that it took him 15 days to get a final decision on his case.

"Judicial offices are overcrowded, causing delays in

ago, but the opposing party is now trying to reopen the case under the current system for personal gain.

"One of our relatives had a divorce case that was fully resolved under the previous government.

However, the other party, using their influence, believed they might win this time.

They reopened the already settled case, and it has yet to be resolved."

Regarding the reinvestigation of settled cases, officials assure complete transparency in handling such matters.

Shaikh Sakhidat Abul-



three years since the Islamic Emirate came to power, public confidence in judicial and legal institutions has increased.

This has led to a surge in the number of people seeking justice through courts and other legal entities across the country.

In Uruzgan, a remote province, local officials report that growing trust in judicial and legal institutions has resulted in an increased number of people seeking justice.

Shaikh Sakhidat Abul-Taqi, head of the Uruzgan Court of Appeals, told The Kabul Times that hundreds of people visit the court and other judicial offices daily to resolve their legal issues.

He stated, "Public trust in judicial and legal institutions has grown throughout Afghanistan.

Here in Uruzgan, all departments under our court handle legal cases daily.

addressing people's issues," he said.

"We came from Kandahar for a legal case.

After 15 days, we were finally summoned today for the court's decision, but the crowd here is overwhelming, and cases are not processed in a timely manner.

We request the authorities to provide more facilities for the people."

Due to corruption in the judicial system under previous governments, many old cases have resurfaced and are now being reinvestigated.

Some people claim that many cases, which had already been settled in previous administrations, are being reopened by one party in an attempt to overturn past rulings in their favor.

Hayatullah, a resident of Uruzgan, told The Kabul Times that one of his relatives had resolved a legal dispute years

Taqi, the head of the Court of Appeals, emphasized that all judicial institutions are working without corruption and are committed to delivering timely justice.

"If anyone feels their rights are being violated or believes their case is being handled unfairly, they can directly file a complaint with the Court of Appeals," he said.

"All our judicial and legal institutions are dedicated to serving the people.

We assure everyone that their legal matters will be resolved with full justice."

Residents claim that corruption has been eradicated from judicial and legal institutions across Afghanistan.

The Islamic Emirate officials also repeatedly assure that no one will be allowed to engage in corrupt practices within these institutions.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

600 cadets join national police after training in Balkh

KABUL: A total of 600 newly graduated cadets have joined the country's national police after completing two months of religious and professional training in the country's northern province of Balkh, the Ministry of Interior Affairs said in a statement Monday. Addressing the graduation ceremony, Mawlawi Noorul Hadi Abu Idrees, the

deputy governor of Balkh province, while appreciating the efforts of the officials in the field of education, urged the newly graduated cadets to prioritize obedience and preserve the Islamic system, because it is important.

After receiving certificates during a ceremony, the police cadets vowed to serve the people and tighten their security

everywhere in the country, the statement said.

The graduated policemen would be deployed to ensure security and order in the country's northern zone, according to the statement.

A few weeks ago, 600 police cadets also graduated from the training center of Herat and joined the national police.

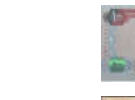
The Kabul Times

Afghan Advertisement

AA 9471

Green Card Missing

A green card of America by thy name of Zaino Amini d/o Mohamad Amin with number (241-541-007) is missing and is invalid. 9471

	USD		GBP		INR		PKR		EUR		IRR		AED
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Faryab hosts 33rd Kyokushin-Kai Karate Championship

The National Karate Federation of Afghanistan organized the 33rd edition of the Kyokushin-Kai Karate Championship in the Qaisar district of Faryab province. The tournament brought together 157 athletes from six different provinces, making it a highly competitive event.



The championship featured matches in various weight categories, with intense competition among participants. After a series of challenging bouts, Faryab emerged as the top-performing team, securing first place with seven points.

Herat claimed second place with two points, while Badghis managed to secure third place with a single point.

The event was a significant opportunity for karate athletes from different provinces to showcase their skills and gain experience in high-level competition. It also highlighted the growing popularity of martial arts in Afghanistan and the efforts being made to promote the sport across different

regions. Organizers of the tournament expressed their satisfaction with the level of competition and the enthusiasm of the participants.

They emphasized the importance of such events in fostering discipline, sportsmanship, and unity among young athletes.

The successful hosting of the championship in Faryab reflects the increasing interest in martial arts and the commitment of sports federations to develop the sport further.

With more events like this, Afghanistan continues to provide a platform for young athletes to excel and represent their provinces on a national level.

The Kabul Times

Mountaineering seminar held in Bamyan

A one-day training seminar on mountaineering concepts was held in Bamyan under the title "Mountain Medicine and First Aid."

The event was organized by the provincial branch of the Mountaineering Federation in collaboration with the Bamyan Directorate of Physical Education and Sports.

The seminar aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of 15 athletes from Bamyan's selected mountaineering team.

During the seminar, participants received advanced training on various aspects of mountaineering, including essential climbing techniques and styles.

The training was conducted by an experienced coach from the Bamyan Mountaineering Federation, who provided in-depth guidance on different climbing approaches and safety measures.

The seminar focused on improving the athletes' understanding of mountain survival

skills, first aid procedures, and the physical challenges associated with high-altitude climbing.

Participants were introduced to key medical concepts related to mountaineering, enabling them to handle emergency situations effectively while climbing in remote mountainous regions.



Organizers emphasized the importance of such training programs in promoting professional mountaineering in Afghanistan.

They highlighted that these initiatives not only enhance the technical abilities of climbers but also ensure their safety and preparedness during expeditions.

Bamyan, known for its breathtaking mountains and growing adventure sports culture, has become a center for mountaineering activities in Afghanistan.

With increasing interest in the sport, training programs like this play a crucial role in developing skilled climbers and fostering a strong mountaineering community.

The participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and practical experience. They emphasized that such initiatives help in strengthening their expertise and preparing them for professional competitions and expeditions. The success of this seminar marks another step toward the growth of mountaineering sports in Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

New Zealand becomes second team to qualify for Champions Trophy semi-finals



New Zealand has secured a spot in the semi-finals of the Cricket Champions Trophy after defeating Bangladesh by five wickets in their second match. Following India, New Zealand is now the second team to advance to the next stage of the tournament.

The match showcased New Zealand's strong performance, both in bowling and batting.

Mitchell Bracewell played a crucial role in the team's victory, taking four wickets and

scoring an unbeaten 11 runs. His all-round performance earned him the Player of the Match award.

New Zealand's bowlers dominated Bangladesh's batting lineup, restricting them to a modest total.

Bracewell's impressive bowling spell played a key role in dismantling Bangladesh's batting order.

While Bangladesh tried to build partnerships, New Zealand's disciplined bowling kept them under pressure.

Chasing the target, New Zealand faced some resistance from the Bangladeshi bowlers but remained in control of the game.

Their batsmen built steady partnerships, ensuring the team reached the target with five wickets in hand. Bracewell, with his all-round contribution, played a vital part in securing the win.

With this victory, New Zealand has strengthened its position as one of the top contenders in the tournament. Their consistent performances and well-balanced squad make them a strong favorite for the title. As the tournament progresses, all eyes will be on New Zealand's upcoming matches, where they will aim to maintain their momentum and continue their journey toward the final.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will look to bounce back and improve their performance in the remaining games.

The Kabul Times

Putin says Europe is needed in Ukraine talks, but suggests deal still distant

Europe's participation in Ukraine peace talks will be needed, but Moscow first wants to build trust with Washington, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday, while suggesting that a deal to end the conflict may still be far off.

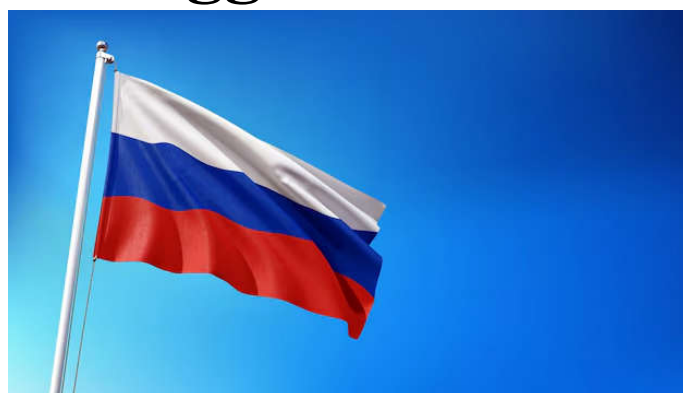
As Ukraine marked the third anniversary on Monday of Russia's invasion that has killed thousands of civilians and displaced millions, US President Donald Trump suggested the war could end within weeks. But he did not elaborate, Putin told Russian state television that Trump was approaching the Russia-Ukraine conflict rationally and not emotionally, but gave the impression it might not end as soon as Trump would like. Both his telephone conversation with Trump and recent talks between the United States and Russia in Riyadh touched on the issue of resolving the conflict in Ukraine, Putin added.

"But it was not discussed in detail," he said in an interview. "We only agreed that we would move toward this. And in this case, of course, we are not refusing the participation of European countries."

"Ukraine and Kyiv's European allies both objected to not having been invited to the initial round of talks on Ukraine, held last week in Saudi Arabia by the United States and Russia. Putin said Europe had nothing to do with" the talks in Riyadh, as they were focused on establishing trust between Moscow and Washington, which he said was key.

"In order to resolve complex and rather acute issues, such as those related to Ukraine, both Russia and the United States must take the first step," Putin said.

"What does it consist of? This first step should be devoted to increasing the level



of trust between the two states," he added.

"But what do the Europeans have to do with it?" The next few rounds of talks and high-level contacts will be devoted to building that trust, he said, but once the talks turn to reaching a settlement to the conflict, the presence of European partners will be logical.

"Their participation in the negotiating process is needed. We never rejected that; we held constant discussions with them."

Putin also said he approved a suggestion that Russia and the United States could discuss deep cuts—of as much as half—in military spending.

Trump, he said, was acting logically and free of the constraints of promises to Ukraine made by European leaders.

"Unlike them, the new president of the United States has his hands free from shackles that don't allow you to move forward," he said.

"He is moving in a straightforward manner and without particular constraints. He is in a unique position: he doesn't just say what he thinks, he says what he wants."

This is the privilege of the leader of one of the major powers," Al-Arabiya

January 15 after a weeklong standoff at his residential compound, in the first such action taken against a sitting president in South Korea.

Deadly accidents continue to regularly occur at industrial sites in South Korea, which introduced a law in 2022 to address safety lapses and punish company management if a worker is killed on the job.

Earlier in February, six people died in a fire at a hotel construction site in the port city of Busan, with about 100 people evacuated, including 14 workers plucked to safety by a helicopter after they had taken refuge on a rooftop.

In June last year, a fire at a lithium battery factory that authorities blamed on quality control failures and inadequate safety training killed 23 workers.

Police arrested Yoon on

Four killed in South Korea road collapse

Four people were killed and six were injured in South Korea after elevated parts of a highway under construction collapsed on Tuesday, fire authorities said.



The National Fire Agency said 10 people were working on the site in the city of Anseong, about 65km (40 miles) south of the capital Seoul. The accident took place at

9:49am (00:49 GMT), when five 50-metre (164-foot) steel structures supporting the highway bridge collapsed, trapping the workers in the rubble.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said it dispatched a team of officials to the scene. Hyundai Engineering, the builder of the site, apologised for the loss of lives and injuries.

Choi became South Korea's acting president in December, after President Yoon Suk Yeol was impeached for his short-lived declaration of martial law on December 3.

Yoon appeared in court for a preliminary hearing last week on allegations he was attempting to orchestrate a rebellion, before a criminal trial.

Trump rescinds order on rights abuses with US-supplied weapons: Sources

The Trump administration has rescinded a Biden-era order that required it to report potential violations of international law involving US-supplied weapons by allies including Israel, two US officials and a source familiar with the decision said on Monday.

The memorandum required the US government to produce reports for Congress on the use of US arms by other countries. In May 2024, in a report required by the memorandum, Biden's administration said Israel may have breached international humanitarian law but that US officials were unable to identify specific instances of breaches that harmed civilians due to the chaos of war.

The Trump administration would have been required in the coming months to report to Congress its own assessment of Israel's conduct.

The Washington Post cited an order issued by White House national security adviser Michael Waltz on February 21 repealing NSM-20. Reuters was not able to

independently confirm the existence of the order, but two US officials and a source familiar with the move said they had been told the directive was revoked.

The State Department referred questions to the White House, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

US Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, a key proponent of congressional oversight of US arms sales, said the decision to revoke the memo was "shameful."

"It's a disservice to our national security, to global human rights, and to our standing around the world," Van Hollen said in a statement.

"This move also undermines American taxpayers' right to ensure the use of their dollars aligns with our laws and our national interest."

It's another clear example of Trump's blatant indifference to American values. This is not America first – it's America in retreat."

NSM-20 applied to all countries involved in armed conflict that receive US weapons, but sparked dissent among US officials over whether Israel's assurances that it was using US-supplied weapons in accordance with international humanitarian law

